



# Environmental Studies Program UC Santa Barbara

## 2005 Alumni Survey - Summary

**Last updated on  
June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

*By June, 2005, the Environmental Studies Program at UCSB graduated approximately 4,100 students, establishing itself as one of the oldest and most successful environmental studies programs in the nation!*

*As part of the ES Program's 35th Anniversary, an alumni survey was conducted in spring, 2005. As of June 30th, 504 alumni had responded and the following summary highlights the results.*

*For a copy of the complete ES alumni survey report, visit the ES Program's website at: [www.es.ucsb.edu](http://www.es.ucsb.edu)*

*THE 2005 ES ALUMNI SURVEY REPORT WAS PREPARED BY ERIC ZIMMERMAN.*

*THE PROJECT WAS SPONSORED BY THE UCSB ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES ASSOCIATES AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM.*

**504 (12.3%) OF THE APPROXIMATELY 4,100 TOTAL ES ALUMNI SUBMITTED A SURVEY.**

### 1. LOCATION/RESIDENCE OF ES ALUMNI:

**ES alumni currently live in 30 out of the 50 United States & District of Columbia.** California has the largest population with 404 (81%), Oregon is second with 12 (2.4%), Washington is third at 8 (1.6%), and Maryland is fourth with 7 (1.4%). Other states with multiple ES alumni include: Alaska, Colorado, D.C., Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Massachusetts, Maryland, Montana, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Virginia, Wyoming.

**11 ES Alumni (2.0%) live in another country, including:** Argentina, Australia, Bali, Canada, Finland, Guam, Japan, New Zealand, Sultan of Oman, and Benin-West Africa.

### 2. UNDERGRADUATE/ES DEGREE INFORMATION:

Of the 504 respondents, **188 (37.3%)** received a B.A. prior to 1990, **213 (42.3%)** obtained B.A. degrees after 1990, **96 (19%)** received B.S. degrees or the Natural Science emphasis since 1990, and **7 (1.4%)** had majored in the B.S. degrees in Hydrologic Sciences.

**178 (38.7%) of 468 transferred to UCSB from another institution.** 118 from CA Community Colleges, 24 from another UC campus, and 19 from California State Schools.

Out of the 467 who responded, **167 ES alumni (35.8%) said they graduated as a double major**, with the largest departments with ES double majors including Geography - 54, Economics - 27, Biology - 21, and Political Science - 15.

**111 (24.7%) of 450 studied abroad or participated in an environmental field studies/experiential education program** (i.e. EAP, Wildlands Studies, UCDC, etc.).

**225 (48.5%) of 464 alumni completed a Senior Thesis** (86.3% because it was required) and their overall satisfaction with the experience averaged a score of 5.99 (scale of 1=lowest to 7=highest).

**67.1% (314 of 468 respondents) said they completed at least one internship** while at UCSB. 96 (20.5%) completed two, 35 (7.5%) did three, and 10 (2.1%) did four.

### 3. ALUMNI RANK THEIR UCSB AND ES EXPERIENCE:

Alumni were asked to use a number between 1 (lowest) and 7 (highest) to **rank the following topics based on their experience while a student at UCSB.** 449 responded:

	<u>Avg. Score</u>
Overall Satisfaction With Your Education Within the ES Program:	<b>6.14</b>
Overall Satisfaction With Your UCSB Education:	<b>5.99</b>
The Overall Quality of the ES Faculty:	<b>6.19</b>
The Overall Quality of the ES Staff:	<b>6.18</b>

When alumni were asked to **summarize their overall experience in the ES Program**, the following phrases were used most often:

<b>What They Said:</b>	<b># times used by Alumni</b>
Excellent!!!	51
Great!	34
I loved it	21
Very Good	16
Good	15
I enjoyed it	9
Positive	9
Wonderful	9
Fantastic!!!	8
It was great	8
Terrific	2
Amazing!	1
A '10'!	1
Rockin!!!!!!!!!!!!	1

#### 4. ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

Of 458 respondents, **310 (67.7%) said they completed some form of post undergraduate education after UCSB.** The breakdown was as follows:

	<b>Total # Alumni</b>	<b>% of 458 Total Replies</b>	<b>% of 310 w/ Add. Education</b>
# Grad Degrees (M.A., Ph.D., Etc.)	199	43.4%	64.2%
# completed a Certificate Program	92	20.0%	29.7%
# with Assoc. or 2nd Bachelors	10	2.2%	3.2%
Other or Unknown additional education	9	1.9%	2.9%
<b>Total:</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>67.7%</b>	

There were 21 Ph.D.'s, 42 law degrees, 31 Masters in Planning, 19 Teaching Credentials, 13 M.B.A.'s, 12 Masters in Public Administration, 9 Masters in Education, 8 Masters in Env. Science and Management, 5 Masters in Public Health, 2 Veterinarians, and 1 M.D.

#### 5. PROFESSIONAL SKILLS DEEMED NECESSARY AFTER GRADUATION

375 alumni provided comments regarding **“skills” they deemed necessary for undergraduates to develop if they wish to enhance their marketability after graduating.** Here is a sample of the more popular skills recommended by ES alumni:

- Effective written and verbal communication skills.
- Interpersonal skills, such as the ability to work cooperatively with others on group projects.
- Hands on business skills.
- Research and organizational skills.
- Ability to work independently.
- Technical writing, articulate speaking, and public presentation skills.
- Develop problem solving skills.
- A good work ethic.
- Ability to think critically and creatively.
- Flexibility, adaptability, and perseverance.
- A sense of humor.
- People skills, always seem to come first in this world.
- Ability to think on your own and be creative.
- Ability to see the whole picture.
- Awareness of current events and world affairs.
- Writing, writing, writing! So practice, practice.....
- Experience! - Do as many internships as possible.

#### 6. WORDS OF WISDOM FROM ES ALUMNI

Over 370 alumni shared their **thoughts on how current Environmental Studies majors may enhance their education while at UCSB.** Here are just a few:

- Balance your ‘book’ knowledge with real-life experiences through internships.
- If you wish to go on to graduate school: Get to Know Your Faculty!
- Be a sponge. Absorb the wealth of knowledge that the professors have to offer.
- As with anything in life, you get out what you put into the experience.
- Be active in the community - UCSB, Isla Vista, Santa Barbara - Get out and get to know people, network!
- Be creative and willing to think outside the box when looking, finding, and defining your education.
- Don’t get caught up in the doom and gloom attitude of some people in the environmental community. Maintain a sense of empowerment and optimism in order to continue working for what you believe is right.

- Put in the effort to get to know your teachers, your fellow students, the land and community around campus -- all will guide you on your path.
- Don't get too hung up on 'being' one thing when you 'grow up.' Life has a funny way of changing your plans.
- Challenge your assumptions. Be aware of accepting conclusions just because they correspond with your's.
- Write a senior thesis, it's a good experience and has great post-graduation marketability.
- Work hard, play harder! You only get your under graduate degree once, so enjoy it everyday.
- Try everything at first and learn from every experience. You will find your closest friends and create your greatest memories from your own ambition.
- Don't get 'lost in the cracks' and do the bare minimum to graduate, this will not help you get a job out of school. Take advantage of opportunities to build your resume and your skills.
- ES is a very real world major! Employers want people who can think and write. They want people who can defend their ideas. ES offers you the opportunity to develop these skills, but you have to take advantage of them.

## 7. ES ALUMNI EMPLOYMENT DATA

Of the 504 total survey respondents, **455 (90.3%) were currently employed.**

Of the 455 employed, **352 (77.4%) said they considered their job to be "environmental."**

**Of the 49 (9.7%) who were unemployed,** 26 were current graduates students, 4 had become stay at home moms, 2 were retired, and only 11 were currently looking for employment or in the middle of a career change.

Alumni were asked to select an **employment category that best fit their current employer and job.** 455 alumni responded:

<u>Category: All ES Alumni</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>% of 455</u>
Private Sector	164	36.5%
Local Government	81	17.7%
Academia/Education	59	13.0%
Non Government	54	11.8%
Self Employed	46	10.0%
State Government	25	5.4%
Federal Government	22	4.9%
Other	4	0.9%

<u>Category: Alumni w/Env. Jobs</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>% of 352</u>
Private Sector	133	38.2%
Local Government	68	19.5%
Academia/Education	41	11.8%
Non Government	35	10.1%
Self Employed	30	8.6%
Federal Government	21	6.0%
State Government	21	6.0%
Other	3	0.9%

ES Alumni were also asked to **choose the annual salary range for which they qualified.** 388 responses were recorded and are included below.

<u>Annual Salary</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>% of 388</u>
\$36,000 to \$50,000	87	22.0%
\$51,000 to \$65,000	74	18.7%
More than \$96,000	69	17.5%
\$66,000 to \$80,000	55	13.9%
\$21,000 to \$35,000	53	13.4%
0 to \$20,000	34	8.6%
\$81,000 to \$96,000	23	5.8%

### Short list of ES Alumni's job titles and employers:

<u>Job Title</u>	<u>Employer</u>
Architect	Miller Hayashi Architects
Ecologist	U.S. Geological Survey
Senior Env. Engineer	Lowney Associate
President/Principal Planner	Urban Planning Concepts
District Superintendent	CA Dept. of Parks & Rec.
Associate Professor	Cal Poly San Luis Obispo
Aquatic Ecotoxicologist	Pacific Ecorisk
President	League of Conservation Voters
Air Pollution Specialist	CA Air Resources Board
Senior Attorney	Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
Director of Conservation	New England Aquarium
Photo Interpreter/GIS	Bureau of Reclamation
Democratic Legislative Staff	U.S. House of Reps. Committee on Resources
Vice President	Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Battalion Chief	USDA Forest Service
Manager	NASA Groundwater Cleanup
Superintendent, NPS	Lewis and Clark National Historical Park
Asst. Secretary of Resources	CA Resources Agency
Executive Director	Coalition for Sustainable Transportation

ES Alumni were asked to **select one job field which best described their current employment or job title**. 456 responses were recorded and the results are summarized below:

<b><u>Alumni Classified by Job Field</u></b>	<b><u>#</u></b>	<b><u>% of 456</u></b>
<b><u>Planning</u></b>	<b><u>103</u></b>	<b><u>22.6%</u></b>
Architecture/Design	2	
Comprehensive	16	
Environmental	42	
Land Use/Zoning	26	
Recreation	5	
Regional	2	
Transportation	10	
<b><u>Environmental Science</u></b>	<b><u>103</u></b>	<b><u>22.6%</u></b>
Air Quality	14	
Biology/Ecology	21	
Botany	3	
Energy	1	
Engineering	2	
Env. Health/Safety	11	
Fishery/Wildlife Mgt.	4	
Forestry	2	
GIS/Remote Sensing	11	
Hazardous Waste	2	
Hydrology	3	
Industrial Hygiene	1	
Mineral Resources	1	
Resource Conservation	8	
Solid Waste	4	
Water Quality	15	
<b><u>Education</u></b>	<b><u>58</u></b>	<b><u>12.7%</u></b>
Administration	7	
Camps/Outdoor	9	
Current Grad Student	6	
Environmental	6	
Instructor, College/University	11	
Teacher, Primary	10	
Teacher, Secondary	9	
<b><u>Miscellaneous</u></b>	<b><u>56</u></b>	<b><u>12.3%</u></b>
Agriculture/Horticulture	4	
Communications	3	
Computer Science	5	
Consulting	4	
Entertainment	4	
Health care	11	
Hospitality	3	
Media	1	
Public Safety	3	
<b><u>Business</u></b>	<b><u>43</u></b>	<b><u>9.4%</u></b>
Construction	7	
Economics	4	
Finance	7	

Green Product Sales/Services	7	
Insurance	5	
Land Management	1	
Real Estate	12	
<b><u>Law</u></b>	<b><u>29</u></b>	<b><u>6.4%</u></b>
Corporate	7	
Criminal	2	
Environmental	16	
Estate Planning	2	
Family	1	
Public Interest	1	
<b><u>Policy/Politics</u></b>	<b><u>26</u></b>	<b><u>5.7%</u></b>
Administrator	2	
Analyst	3	
Consultant	7	
Gov't Staff	5	
Lobbyist	5	
Politician	4	
<b><u>Other</u></b>	<b><u>20</u></b>	<b><u>4.4%</u></b>
<b><u>Env. Organizing/Fundraising</u></b>	<b><u>9</u></b>	<b><u>2.0%</u></b>
<b><u>Land/Wildlife Conservation</u></b>	<b><u>5</u></b>	<b><u>1.1%</u></b>
<b><u>Water Resource Management</u></b>	<b><u>4</u></b>	<b><u>0.9%</u></b>

## 8.0 ADDITIONAL COMMENTS BY ES ALUMNI

- I am very proud to have graduated from this school and this program.
- A pioneering program that was ahead of its time. My hat's off to those to conceived it and made it happen.
- Greatest major at the best school on the planet. Maybe I'm exaggerating, but it's close.
- I felt that I received an excellent education from faculty who were passionate about their beliefs.
- I greatly admire the ES Program's continuous development and improvement over the past 30+ years.
- I would do anything to do it all over again!
- I'd love to be a course instructor at UCSB ES; then my life would be complete! Also my wife was also '78 ES grad and our first son is 2001 UCSB ES grad.
- Please keep up the fantastic work! Many of my students have and are coming to UCSB to study environmental studies/science.
- The E.S. Program changed my life and provided a very good foundation for an interesting and varied professional career.
- Thank you to those professors who bring their whole selves to educating young adults with a passion.